

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending in the application. Claims 8 and 10 have been amended. Claims 9, 11 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 13-15 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-8, 10 and 13-15 are pending and submitted for reconsideration.

Claims 1-7 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the acknowledged prior art (described in the “Background of the Invention” section of the application) in view of Mramor. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,167,808 (“Mramor”).

The rejections should be withdrawn because the cited art fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, the cited art (separately or in combination) fails to disclose, teach or suggest “a connector-retaining portion provided at a leading end of the cylindrical terminal” as called for in claims 1 and 7, or “a connector-retaining portion provided at a leading end of the electrode pin” as called for in claim 4.

The Examiner correctly states that acknowledged prior art teaches a connector-retaining portion. *See* Office Action at p. 2. However, the Examiner incorrectly states that Mramor discloses a connector-retaining portion at reference numeral 96. The Examiner is incorrect because reference numeral 96 does not refer to a connector retaining portion. On the contrary, reference numeral 96 refers to a frustoconical surface of the second terminal 80. *See* Mramor at col. 3, line 19). The frustoconical surface 96 is part of a tip 92 of the end portion 80 of the second terminal 80 having a similar geometric shape compared to the connector-retaining portion 92a disclosed in the present application, but the surface 96 of the tip 92 is not a connector-retaining portion.

The tip 92 merely makes contact with conductive contact arms 182 and collaborates with the spring 150. *See* Mramor at Figs. 5 and 6. The tip 92 connects with the spring 150 to prevent accidental firing of the initiator 10. *See* Mramor at col. 4, lines 5-23. The locking tabs 178 and connector position assurance member (CPA) 190 retain the connector 40 to the initiator 10 and the CPA “prevents removal of the electrical connector 40 from the initiator 10.” *See* Mramor at col. 5, lines 29-30; and Figs. 5-6. Thus, neither the tip 92 nor the associated frustoconical surface 96 provide retain the connector. Thus, the rejection is flawed

and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and new claims 13-14 depend from either claim 1, claim 4 or claim 7 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in these dependent claims.

Amended independent claims 8 and 10 contain recitations similar to claim 1. For example, claim 8 calls for "a cylindrical terminal with an outward flange at a leading end of the terminal for retaining a connector." Further, claim 10 requires the pin to include "a cone shaped connector-retaining portion that decreases toward a leading end of the pin." Thus, the rejections of claims 8 and 10 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

New claim 15 depends from claim 8 and is allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in this dependent claim.

Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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